

**PATENT****Amendments to the Claims:**

Please amend or cancel claims as indicated in the Listing of Claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1.(currently amended):       An apparatus for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:
- an encoder configured to digitally encode a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;
- a placement selector configured to select a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;
- an access selector configured to select a level of access for the encoded information;
- a processor configured to process, responsive to said access selector, the encoded information; and
- a printer configured to print the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location; and
- a lens apparatus configured to produce a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is determined by disambiguation.
- 2.(previously presented)       The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.
- 3-4(canceled)

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- 5.(currently amended): A method for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:
- digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;
  - selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;
  - selecting a level of access for the encoded information;
  - processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and
  - printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location; and
  - displaying a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is determined by disambiguation.

- 6.(previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.

- 7.(canceled)

- 8.(previously presented): The method of claim 5, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

- 9.(currently amended): A method for ensuring that a document has not been altered, comprising:
- digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;
  - selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

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selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information;

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

decoding the encoded information as decoded information;

displaying the decoded information as a composite image of the document and the decoded information wherein the orientation of the decoded information is determined by disambiguation;

comparing the decoded information with the user-inputted portion; and

identifying the document as altered, if the decoded information is not identical to the user-inputted portion.

10.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

11.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoded information is a graphical recreation of the user-inputted portion.

12.(previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoding step further comprises placing the document under a viewport of a lens apparatus, wherein the lens apparatus converts the encoded information to decoded information.

13.(currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the decoded information further comprises ~~further comprising the step of~~ superimposing the decoded information on the document.

14.(currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the decoded information further comprises ~~further comprising the step of~~ displaying the decoded information outside of the document.

15-16(canceled)

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17.(currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for creating a tamper-proof document, the method comprising;

digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location; and

displaying a composite image of the document and image information decoded from the encoded information wherein the orientation of the image information is determined by disambiguation.

18.(original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

19-29(canceled)

30.(previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.